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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AFRICA.

Plague reported in Cape Colony.

[Telephoned from the Consular Bureau, State Department.]

NOVEMBER 16, 1900.

The consul-general at Cape Town has just telegraphed that it has been officially declared that plague exists in the interior of the colony.

BRAZIL.

Plague in Rio de Janeiro—Sanitary arrangements.

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, October 11, 1900.

SIR: I beg leave to inclose herewith a map issued by the director-general of public health of Rio de Janeiro, showing the places in the city where cases of bubonic plague occurred during the period April 18 to August 15 ultimo. Of the total of 426 cases reported in that time, 385 were in the buildings as indicated on the map, 5 in ships and on the islands of the harbor, and 36 in unknown localities. During the time from April 18 to October 10 there were 492 cases reported to the health authorities, with 248 deaths, showing a mortality of nearly 50 per cent. At present there are only 32 cases under treatment in the isolation hospital, the smallest number since the existence of the malady in Rio de Janeiro was officially declared.

The Brazilian authorities have been equally praised and condemned for their special sanitary arrangements to keep the pest in check, but the fact is that the system inaugurated has confined the disease to Rio de Janeiro and immediate vicinity, and has been consistently carried through.

Baggage and freight leaving the city has been rigorously disinfected, the coastwise ships have been placed in quarantine at Ilha Grande, the national quarantine station, for a period of ten days, and passengers kept under strict observation at their destinations in the country until it was certain they had not been infected. The isolation hospital across the harbor from the city, at Jurujuba, has been well and efficiently conducted, according to the reports of disinterested physicians. As a result of the precautions and sanitary arrangements, it is thought the worst part of the plague visitation has been passed.

As indicated by the map, a majority of the cases reported have occurred in the rather low-lying business portions of the city, where many large families occupy close quarters in the upper or attic stories of the buildings, secluded from the sunlight and musty with foul air. The higher and more exposed residence districts of the city have been comparatively free from the ravages of the pest.

Respectfully,

W. L. LOWRIE,
Vice Consul-General.

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.